

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY Madagascar

DATE:

25X1

SUBJECT Uprisings in Madagascar

25X1

DIST. 27 May 1947

PAGES 12

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

25X1

DISTRIBUTION

STATE	WAR	NAVY	JUSTICE	R & E	C & D	AAF					
-------	-----	------	---------	-------	-------	-----	--	--	--	--	--

25X1

SUMMARY

A revolt, consisting of simultaneous attacks on French garrisons and arms depots at widely separated points, occurred during the weekend of March 30-April 1. Incidents centered in Diego Suarez, naval base in the north; Moramanga, in the center near Tananarive; and a group of southeastern coastal villages (Manakara, Vohipena, Farajangana).

25X1

1. Issues:

Reports indicate that the revolt was directed from Paris by a new national political party, the Democratic Movement for Madagascar Renovation (the Movement Democratique de Renovation Malagache). (Pages 3, 4, 6) This party was formed in 1946 by the native Madagascar Deputy in the French National Assembly, Dr. Ravoahangy aided by fellow-deputies Raseta and Rahemananjara. (Pages, 5, 7) These three deputies have demanded autonomy within the French Union.

President of the Council Ramadier (April 3) said that "there had been some distant, occasional contacts" between Viet Nam and the Madagascan Restoration Movement, but he indicated that this was not serious. (Page 2)

Early reports indicated that French Communists favored the movement, but they later reversed themselves rather than cause the fall of the Government and thus lose their seats in the Cabinet. (Pages 7, 8)

2. Forces involved:

From the day of the outbreak to the present the French have been sending in reinforcements by air and by ship. On May 18 the vessel "Sontay" arrived in Tananarive from France with troops, but there is no indication of the numerical strength of the French forces. Rebel strength has been assessed at 6,000 troops. (Page 10)

25X1

3. Results:

The French National Assembly has dissolved the Madagascan Renovation Party and legal proceedings have been instituted against the leaders of the movement. After a three-weeks tour of inspection in the area, General Pellet and the High Commissioner have recommended certain measures to restore order. There is still active and widespread guerrilla warfare, however. (Page 10)

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

-2-

Paris, French Home Service, Apr. 5, 1947, 1:30 a.m. EST--L

(Text)

"Madagascar--The situation has remained substantially the same during the past 24 hours. Every day the High Commissioner receives many messages from the native population expressing its 'attachment' to France and her institutions. It has also expressed its indignation at the events which have occurred in Madagascar.

"In Antananarivo, a curfew has been ordered between 9 p.m. and 5:30 a.m., and the big market held weekly has been canceled.

"The air mission which had to supply the European population in Mahanoro on the east coast with arms and ammunition has reported that it had to machine-gun a concentration of 300 mutineers (mutins) 20 kilometers to the north of that town."

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, Apr. 3, 1947, 10:29 a.m. EST--W

(Text)

"Regarding the incidents in Madagascar, the President of the Council stated that one should not exaggerate the military significance of these revolts, in the course of which no firearms were used at all. On the other hand, he stated, order has already been reestablished in certain areas without the French troops having had to take recourse to their arms.

"In a general sort of way, the state of siege was not at all necessary," Ramadier stated, adding however that, 'French officers and Madagascans had been killed. Basic necessary measures and order for arrest were sent out.' Ramadier stressed that the French policy in Madagascar was that of the French Union, for 'we must not forget that we established local Assemblies there and that Madagascar is represented in the National Assembly, as well as at the Council of the Republic.'

"Questioned on relations between Viet Nam and the Madagascan restoration movement, the President observed that there had been some distant, occasional contacts, but that 'the Viet Namese Government now sees its contacts being cut off on nearly all sides.'

"On the question of bread, Ramadier stated that 'there is no question of a reduction in the bread ration for this month, and next month we will add up the balance sheet of what has been reaped and what has been imported.'

"The President concluded by asking that no more such alarming questions on such serious problems be asked in advance."

Paris, French Home Service, Apr. 10, 1947, 12 noon EST--L

(Text)

"Ramadier devoted his weekly press conference today to the general situation in Madagascar. After recalling the recent incidents and confirming that the situation was developing satisfactorily, he defined the causes of these incidents. When in 1942 detachments of Free France arrived in Madagascar, then occupied by the British, French authority over the Island had been contested. 'No longer feeling that links existed with Metropolitan France, the local elements lost their unity and various parties were gradually formed. There is "Malagasy Renovation Party," which prevails in the center of the Island and constitutes a kind of feudalism. There are also two small parties,

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

the "Malagasy Democratic Party," and the "Malagasy Social Movement," which, although different from the religious point of view, both advocate autonomy but without any specific program.

"A new party was recently formed, namely, the "Party of Malagasy Disinherited," consisting of descendants of slaves of the plateau district and of descendants of the populations of the coastal districts who were enslaved by the conquest of the D.V.A.S. and who still bear a grudge against their conquerors. They are less coherent and organized than are the D.V.A.S. but their social claims are more acute and the conception of the French Union prevails strongly among them. It is the Malagasy Renovation Movement which dominates the political situation."

"Ramadier then pointed to the obvious links between the recent incidents and the action of the latter movement. 'A legal investigation has been opened, and several arrests have been made among the leaders of the Malagasy Renovation Committee. Jules Ranevo, elected Councilor of the Republic, was arrested before his election. It is possible that the Council of the Republic will be called upon to take a decision regarding the matter.'

"With reference to military steps, Ramadier said that they consisted of the garrisons being reinforced by airborne units, but only in small numbers. He then furnished details proving that France had fulfilled all the obligations to which she had committed herself concerning Madagascar."

Paris, in French to Guiana and the Antilles, Apr. 9, 1947, 5:30 P.m. EST--W

(Text)

"The High Commissioner of Madagascar convoked the Council of the Government. M. Dimpault was present at this conference. The Council examined the situation on the island and heard the report of the High Commissioner on the considerable reinforcements who are arriving from the mother country by special plane.

"The High Commissioner likewise announced that the Island of Reunion, the French Coast of Somaliland are placing at the disposal of Madagascar considerable reinforcements. Moreover, the High Commissioner receives every day numerous telegrams in which the natives confirm their loyalty and their devotion to France and disapprove of the attacks which are shedding blood on Madagascar."

Paris, French Home Service, Apr. 3, 1947, 5:45 p.m. EST--L

(Text)

"The Minister of France Overseas has entrusted Gen. Bornil Desbordes, former General Officer Commanding the Levant, with investigating events in Madagascar. The situation in Madagascar is considered satisfactory, and a return to peaceful conditions is indicated. Certain extremist elements of the Malagasy Renovation Movement are considered as responsible for the regrettable incidents, and not the movement as a whole. The parliamentary group of the Democratic Movement for Malagasy Renovation has published a statement warning the public against reports that the movement is at the root of the Madagascar trouble."

Brazzaville, in French to Europe, Africa, and the Near East, Apr. 2, 1947, 4:00 p.m. EST--W

(Text)

"According to FRANCE-PRESSE, circles close to the Ministry for France Overseas point out that reports received from Tananarive seem to implicate the responsibility of the Democratic Movement for Madagascar Renovation. At least there does not seem to be any doubt that this unrest has been coordinated and that it comes from a carefully drawn up plan and technique."

SECRET

-2-

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, Apr. 10, 1947, 7:29 a.m. EST--W

(Text)

"Tananarive--Searches made in Tananarive permitted the discovery of important documents. Madagascan officials belonging to a terrorist organization were arrested. The attack against Farafangana which took place late yesterday afternoon was repulsed with considerable losses for the attackers. The night seems to have been calm over all the territory."

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin American and Canada, Apr. 16, 1947, 10:43 a.m. EST--W

(Excerpt)

"From the report made by Marius Moutet, Overseas Minister, on the events in Madagascar it stands out clearly that the responsibility of the MDR (Democratic Movement for Madagascan Renovation) is incontestably involved. Jurists have shown that in cases brought against the Madagascan parliamentarians who have been arrested a case of flagrant crime can be upheld."

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, Apr. 6, 1947, 1:30 p.m. EST--W

(Article by AFP Correspondent Andre Rambeau)

(Text)

"Tananarive--Madagascar is more calm following the agitation of these past days. It seems that it is more due to the firm and just attitude of the authorities rather than to...struggle."

"However, the entire native population of the big island should not be blamed; in effect the majority of the Malagasy were not influenced by the propaganda inciting them to fight France."

"However, it must be noted that the recent disturbances did not constitute isolated and loosely formed actions. We face a coordinated movement, planned at length by persons perfectly aware of their aims. None of those who were arrested think of denying the facts of which they are accused. It is said that in any case, the uprisings of recent days can in no way compromise the continuation of a frank and loyal collaboration, for which the French of Madagascar and the majority of the native population will never cease to hope."

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, Apr. 4, 1947, 12:48 p.m. EST--W

(Text)

"Giving assurance of their 'loyal devotion to France and its institutions,' the Provincial Assemblies of Tulear, Fianarantsoa, Tananarive, Majunga, on the occasion of their first meeting, each addressed a telegram of (cooperation) to the French High Commissioner in Tananarive, announces the Minister of France Overseas. These messages emphasize that they express the sentiments of the totality of the members of the Assemblies. These Assemblies are composed of two sections, the first grouping citizens with a French status; the second, aborigines having maintained their personal status, and who have the majority."

SECRET

SECRET

-5-

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, Apr. 4, 1947, 5:52 a.m. EST--W

(Text)

"Tananarive--In connection with events in Madagascar, it is learned that on Apr. 2 a military supply truck was attacked near Moramanga by the rebels. The occupants of the truck, after killing two of the enemy, were able to escape. On the other hand, an air mission carried out on the same day reported that the railroad between Fianarantsoa and Manakara was held by the rebels. A military operation is in progress in this region. In addition Vatondromy, located on the eastern coast of the island, was attacked by armed bands, who were repulsed. A few prisoners were taken.

"No other alarming report came from the territory during the day. The High Commissioner appealed to everyone to keep calm in order to avoid the spreading of rumors and unconfirmed news which might create unnecessary panic among the European and Malagasy population."

Paris, French Home Service, Apr. 15, 1947, 11:00 a.m. EST--L

(Text)

"At today's Cabinet meeting the situation in Madagascar was examined. M. Marius Moutet placed before his colleagues all the evidence available in Paris which establishes undeniably the responsibility of the Democratic Movement for Madagascar Renovation for the revolt. Malagasy Parliamentarians personally took part in the meeting held on Mar. 27, during which the conspiracy was planned for the outbreak 2 days later. The Cabinet decided to request the withdrawal of parliamentary immunity from M. Ravahandy, M. Rahamananjara, (M. Ramorja), M. Raherivelo, and M. Bezara.

"Concerning the position of M. Raseta, leader of the Renovation Party, who was in Paris at the time of the outbreak, the Minister of Information, M. Pierre Bourdan, stated at the close of the Cabinet meeting that the case of M. Raseta would be considered in the near future."

Paris, in French to Indochina, Apr. 16, 1947, 8:10 a.m. EST--W

(Excerpt)

"Finally, let us report that M. Paul Ramadier yesterday told a journalist of the European Press Agency that he would be called upon to report on the incidents in Madagascar before the National Assembly as soon as the next session opens."

Paris, in French to Indochina, Apr. 16, 1947, 8:10 a.m. EST--W

(Text)

"Dispatches received from Madagascar report that numerous insurrectionist villages are continuing to submit. Numerous resignations from the Malagasy Renovation Movement pour into the chief towns of the districts. Calm reigns of Andapa and Farafangana."

Brazzaville, in English to Europe, Africa, and the Near East, Apr. 17, 1947, 1:45 a.m. EST--W

(Text)

"According to information from reliable sources, Madagascar nationalists actually plotted to seize Madagascar from France, to set up a Government of Madagascan citizens, and kidnap the French Governor..."

SECRET

-6-

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, Apr. 30, 1947, 8:42 a.m. EST--W

(Text)

"Tananarive--It is reported that rebel uprisings took place in the district of Befotaka and near the Marolambo post. Several villages were set on fire northwest of Mahanoro, chiefly the village of Ianakolona on the Vokipeno road. During the past 24 hours several patrols were made near Moranaga and Marmelambo.

"Reconnaissance flights were made over the regions of Mahanoro, Nosyvarika, Mahamoro, Nosyvarika, and Manarathara. At Manakara concessions were ravaged, and many colonists were killed.

"Finally, in Manajary, which is threatened, all the Europeans, officials, militia, and colonists are together and are showing excellent morale."

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, May 1, 1947, 7:30 a.m. EST--W

(Text)

"Tananarive--Last night the rebels attacked the Moramanga camp. The post office was sacked and four Madagascan post office workers were killed. Furthermore, it is reported that they broke down the doors of the prison and took out a number of Madgascans with their families.

"Details are lacking for the moment from St. Denis, Reunion. A general strike is scheduled for May 2."

Paris, French Home Service, Apr. 20, 1947, 1:30 a.m. EST--L

(Text)

"Madagascar--The French High Commissioner, M. De. Coppet, yesterday opened the first session of the Representative Assembly of Madagascar at Antirabe which was attended by all the authorities. The French High Commissioner paid a tribute to the victims in the recent events and those who died to safeguard 'France's presence' in Madagascar.

"He made a speech in which he said: 'The fact that the rising broke out at the same moment at various points goes to show that there was a huge plot, with ramifications throughout the Island. Many people have been arrested, and there is no doubt that the insurrection was prevented from spreading because speedy measures were taken to cope with it at the outset. Warrants for the arrest of the parliamentary leaders of the Renovation Malgache Movement were issued only after an inquiry had been opened and it had been established that they were personally responsible and implicated in the crimes committed.

"Justice is following its course, and the facts divulged by the inquiry will be made public.

"We are now in a position to state that there was a plot in the form of a paramilitary rising organized in the minutest detail. The rebels had at their disposal cells and local agitators throughout the island to put their plot into execution. I asked the Government to grant me the necessary political and administrative powers to insure order. I asked Metropolitan France to send out large military forces and these are now on the way."

"According to the latest information received from Madagascar, the situation in the Island can be summarized as follows: Mopping-up operations are proceeding in the Andapa area. New units of parachutists were...Mananjary. Eleven planes carrying women and children evacuated from the latter place arrived yesterday afternoon at Tanananariva."

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-7-

Paris, French Home Service, Apr. 23, 1947, 1:30 a.m. EST--L

(Text)

"Madagascar--The local Representative Assembly has adopted two motions. The first, after stressing the gravity of the situation on the island, demands the dissolution of the Democratic Movement of Malagasy Renovation and the death sentence for those mainly responsible for the rising.

"The second expresses the hope of closer cooperation between the elected representatives of Madagascar and French Government officials in order to safeguard French sovereignty, while at the same time having regard for the progress achieved by the local population. The Representative Assembly of Madagascar is composed of 15 metropolitan Councilors and 21 native members.

"Latest cables from the Island speak of rebel concentrations in the Mananjary district. The 'administrative center' of Violava has been occupied by the rebels, who have killed the Governor and native guards and set fire to several European concessions in the area."

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, Apr. 21, 1947, 1946 a.m. EST--R

(Text)

"Paris--It is learned from well-informed sources that Ravoahangy, Deputy from Madagascar, who was questioned during the preliminary investigation, confirmed the confessions already made by members of the political office of the Madagascan Renovation Movement and Councilor of the Republic Raherivelo, who have already been arrested. Ravoahangy admitted his presence at the Mar. 27 meeting during which the conspiracy was set forth in detail and the order of attack of the night of Mar. 29 was drawn up in code language. This document had been signed by Rahemananjara, Ravohangy, and Raseta."

Paris, French Home Service, Apr. 17, 1947, 1:30 a.m. EST--L

(Press Review by Georges Cahn)

(Excerpts)

"As you all know the Madagascar incidents were discussed during yesterday's Cabinet meeting. If one is to judge by the commentaries of the Paris press, the Communist Ministers did not agree with their colleagues with regard to the request of the lifting of the parliamentary immunity of the four Madagascar Deputies. We shall see further on that some reporters speak of 'serious disagreement' within the Cabinet on this score, while others go so far as to speak of the possibility of a Government crisis.

"Georges Cogniot in L'HUMANITE presents the Communist Point of view, and says: 'If as claimed by Marius Moutet, atrocities and crimes were committed against the European population in Madagascar, let these be punished according to the law but without taking advantage of these actions to violate the Constitution by asking the Assembly to lift the parliamentary immunity of the four Madagascar Deputies. What are they accused of? Of having been caught red-handed? But one can no longer accuse them of this, so they are accused only of alleged criminal intentions.

Break Seems Unavoidable

"The semiofficial commentator of the Cabinet says that without the arrests which have been carried out among the leaders the unrest would have spread across the Island. In other words, these responsibilities are only ~~hypothetical~~ hypothetical ones, and the crime of the Madagascar Deputies is one of moral

SECRET

SECRET

complicity. The Communists have done everything in their power to avoid compromising French interests in the far East, and they feel the same as regards this Madagascar affair. The Communist position appears to all citizens mindful of the future as the only one corresponding to the higher interests of the country.'

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, Apr. 22, 1947, 11:24 a.m. EST--W

(Special Feature No. 585, "Will the Parties Want to Admit that General De Gaulle is Right?" by J. M. Darraeq. World Copyright 1947 by AFP, Paris)

(Text)

"French political life is still dominated by colonial questions, the Gathering launched by General De Gaulle remaining in the background, at least for the moment. Last week it could be feared that the bloody incidents in Madagascar would give rise to a governmental crisis, which only President Ramadier's spirit of conciliation prevented during the debates on Indochina in the National Assembly.

"During the last Cabinet Council the Communist Party took an attitude clearly opposed to that of the majority of the Council with regard to the proceedings instituted against the Madagascan deputies; and, placed in the minority, it seemed to want to create a commotion which would have made it impossible for the Ministry to survive even until the return of the President of the Republic. It made nothing of it and speeches moderate in tone and also... made last Sunday by Maurice Thorez and Jacques Duclos permit one to foresee that the leaders of the party do not desire, for the moment, to render the misunderstanding within the Ramadier Ministry too glaring. Certain generally well-informed circles even presume that the Communist Party might abandon their fate the Madagascan deputies guilty at the least of having imprudently concealed their real intentions.

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, May 1, 1947, 9:11 a.m. EST--W

(Text)

"Tananarive--Ten dead were counted after the attack launched in the night from Apr. 28 to 29 by rebels against a camp of railwaymen situated... west of Moramanga.

"Last night attacks were directed against the city of Moramanga itself. The rebels succeeded in turning out of the city prison 150 prisoners who were held there, and took along with them about 100 Francophile natives"

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, May 2, 1947, 12:21 p.m. EST--W

(Text)

"Tananarive--The size of the bands which attacked Moramanga on the night of Apr. 30 cannot yet be estimated, but the engagement was severe. In the morning the Commander in Chief of the district had the native women and children inhabiting Moramanga and its surrounding evacuated after the severe engagements which took place at Antanambao Mahatsara, to the south of Vatomandry.

"At Mahatsara, to the south of Vatomandry, the rebels retreated, destroying villages as they went. During reconnaissance to the north of Ifanadiana the chief of the district attacked a group of rebels which suffered losses."

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-9-

(Paris, French Home Service, May 11, 1947, 4:30 p.m. EST--L

(Text)

"The town of Mananjary on Madagascar was once more attacked yesterday in the late afternoon. Reinforcements are expected to arrive without delay. A naval patrol ship arrived in front of the town this morning, and in the course of an engagement south of Vatomandry the rebels suffered heavy losses."

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, May 6, 1947, 12:46 p.m. EST--W

(Text)

"National Assembly 1--The debate on events in Madagascar was begun today in the presence of M. Ramadier, President of the Council, who left the National Council of the Socialist Party in the middle of the afternoon. A Deputy of the Democratic Socialist Resistance Union of Madagascar, Jules Castellani, complained of the lack of efficiency which the administration of the Island has displayed for more than 2 years; accused the Madagascan Revival Movement, which 'discriminates against races, fascist...' of having given the order for the Mar. 29, 1947, massacre. He read documents in support of his accusations. After having called to mind the disturbances which occurred on the Island, Castellani reproached the High Commissioner for 'a policy of weakness and abandon.' Coppet, according to the speaker, took no account of the information which was given and the Government did not take the necessary measures in due time."

Paris, AFP, French Press Service, in French Morse to Canada, May 13, 1947, 6:30 a.m. EST**W

(Text)

"Tananarive--Nosyvarika was attacked during the night by rebels who lost 150 men. The reinforcements were parachuted. At Mananjery the situation remains serious. Several attacks were repelled. The insurgents are in the forest and in the neighboring villages. Reinforcements were sent to this country by air. Fires and pillaging have been reported in the regions of Mahanaro and Andevoranto."

Paris, in French to Indochina, May 7, 1947, 7:10 a.m. EST--L

(Excerpts)

"The National Assembly met yesterday afternoon to begin the debate on events in Madagascar. President Ramadier and M. Marius Moutet, Minister for France Overseas, were on the Government bench. M. Jules Castellani, UDSR Deputy for Madagascar, first of all called to mind the history of the Island dwelling on the role played by the... as well as on the work accomplished by France. Then he showed the responsibility of certain members of the administration... he said, permitted the development of anti-French propaganda during the last 2 years. Then the speaker read documents which showed that the massacre of Mar. 29 had been ordered by the Democratic Party of Madagascan Malagasy Renovation."

"As M. Raseta, deputy of this party, interrupted him, M. Castellani had to reply.... To conclude M. Castellani exalted the Assembly and the Government... maintain the civilizing presence of France."

SECRET

SECRET

-10-

25X1

"On his part M. (Pierre Rouli), PRL deputy from ... asked M. Moutet promptly to straighten out the situation by sending to the Island competent officials who were devoted to France.

"Intervening in his turn, M. Raseta asked that the Assembly hear his colleague with regard to being the instigators of the rebellion. He disapproved all of the acts of violence which have been committed, but accused the Senegalese troops of being at the root of the disturbances. The Assembly protested violently.

"Then speaking M. Moutet stated, to the Assembly's applause that the first victims of the revolt were the Senegalese. The latter, added the Minister for France Overseas, reacted and those who are at the source of the disturbances are those who decreed murder and then accomplished it.

"M. Raseta intervened again to declare with force that his friends, and he himself, have always manifested a Francophile activity and that for them independence (could) not be granted out of the framework of the French Union."

Paris, in French to Indochina, May 9, 1947, 9:10 a.m. EST--W

(Text)

"The situation in Madagascar seems to be clearing. At the present time, the rebels can be put at some 6,000 men armed with ... guns. Their method of action, particularly in the regions of Moramanga and Farafangana, indicates a certain organization and that several leaders have a knowledge of maquis warfare.

"The reinforcements expected in Madagascar are no doubt destined to open the offensive phase of the operations, first to free the two ... Tananarive-Tamatava and Fianarantsoa-Manakara and finally to bring about the pacification of the disturbed region by the complete dispersal of the rebel groups."

Paris, French Home Service, May 12, 1947, 6:30 a.m. EST--L

(Text)

"Madagascar--We have received some details about the political situation in that Island. The decision taken by the Cabinet to dissolve the Mouvement Democratique de Renovation Malagache has been welcomed by the European population, Government circles, and leaders of moderate Malagasy parties.

"After a tour of inspection lasting 3 weeks General Pellet and the High Commissioner have drawn up the necessary measures for reestablishing order. Legal proceedings are being taken against the leaders of the Mouvement de Renovation, who are throwing the blame for starting the revolt on each other."

Paris, French Home Service, May 6, 1947, 1:30 a.m. EST--L

(Text)

"Yesterday the Cabinet drew up measures for restoring order in Madagascar. Troop and aircraft reinforcements are on their way to the island.

"Latest reports say that Fanovana railway station has been attacked. The garrison in this town vigorously counterattacked and 50 rebels were killed. A train coming from Tamatave was attacked and three passengers were wounded including one European woman.

"There was lively fighting in the village northwest of Farafangana. The rebels were dispersed after suffering heavy losses. At Nosy Varika parachutists were dropped to restore order."

SECRET

SECRET

2081

-11-

Paris, AFP, French Press Service in French Morse to Canada, May 19, 1947,
8:25 a.m. EST--W

(Text)

"Tananarive--Reinforcement units transported by the vessel Sontay arrived last night and landed this morning.

"In the vicinity of the Geraud station on the Tananarive-Tamatave line a large group of rebels was dispersed by fire from automatic arms and mortars. They suffered heavy losses.

"Furthermore, it is learned that the losses suffered by the insurgents at Anivorano and Mahanoro are greater than at first believed."

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Act, 50, U.S.C. 31 and 32 as amended. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

APPENDIX

Singapore in English to the Far East, April 5, 1947, 4:00 a.m., EST--H

(Text)

"French airborne reinforcements are arriving in Madagascar following the uprising which started last Sunday (March 30-April 1). One airborne reinforcement from Reunion Island, 400 miles to the east, arrived on Wednesday. Tension is particularly reported from the east coast where French troops yesterday reoccupied the village of Manakara and the little town of Mananjary, 150 miles south of (Antala Marissa). These two places were evacuated by the French earlier this week.

"Military operations are underway between Manakara and Fianarantsoa, a hill town 180 miles from the Capital.

"The French Minister of Colonies announced in Paris yesterday that a telegram of good faith had been received by the French High Commissioner in... from the civil Madagascar Provincial Assembly."

Paris, French Home Service, Apr. 3, 1947, 1:30 a.m. EST--L

(Text)

"In Madagascar the situation is calm in every part of the island, but measures have been taken to reinforce security services and airborne reinforcements have arrived from Reunion. Twenty-three civilians and 29 military personnel who participated in the attack on the arms depot at Diego Suarez have been arrested.

"The High Commissioner has decided to proclaim a state of siege in 10 districts of Madagascar. News received on the whole did not seem to bear out the need to extend this measure to other areas."

Paris, French Home Service, Apr. 6, 1947, 5:45 p.m. EST--L

(Text)

"Reports received at Tananarive this afternoon show that the tension has eased. The energetic measures taken as soon as the incidents began are now producing their full effect. The High Commissioner, who left yesterday afternoon for the disturbed areas, has found that the situation has much improved. In a telegram to Tananarive, he expresses pleasure at the high morale of civil and military leaders."

Paris, in French to Guiana and the Antilles, Apr. 6, 1947, 5:30 a.m. EST--W

(Excerpts)

"On its part the (Vauosn), the Party of the Disinherited of Madagascar, reaffirms to the President of the Council its will to fight energetically as in the past against subversive elements and totally renews its confidence in France."

Paris, in French to Guiana and the Antilles, Apr. 6, 1947, 5:30 p.m. EST--W

(Excerpts)

"M. Desbordes, Inspector General of Colonies, commissioned recently by the Ministry of France Overseas to conduct an investigation on the events in Madagascar, arrived this afternoon at Tananarive by plane."

SECRET

25X1

Page Denied

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied